



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Senate Community Affairs References Committee

Call for submissions

Inquiry into the Disability Support Pension

Issue date: 17 May 2021

The Senate Community Affairs References Committee is conducting an inquiry into the purpose, intent and adequacy of the Disability Support Pension (DSP).

The committee will be examining the adequacy of the DSP, the current arrangements for facilitating and supporting workforce participation, and the impact on individuals, families and the community.

The Chair of the Committee, Senator Siewert said, “the committee’s inquiry will provide an important opportunity to examine how the Disability Support Pension is working, and the experience of recipients and those trying to apply for the income support and engage in the workforce.”

Call for submissions

The committee is seeking submissions from a wide range of people, including current and past recipients of DSP payments, individuals who have attempted or are in the process of applying for the DSP, and the organisations that provide support in the community.

The committee welcomes submissions from people with first-hand experience with the DSP, however, the committee does not have the ability to advise on, advocate for, or take action on individual cases.

If you would like to make a submission you may find it helpful to read the guide to making a submission available on the Senate website: [Preparing a submission to an inquiry](#).

If you require special arrangements to enable you to make a submission to the inquiry, or if you have questions, or need more time to write your submission, please contact the Community Affairs secretariat.

Further information about the inquiry, including published submissions and hearing programs, is available on the committee website: www.aph.gov.au/senate_ca.

Attending a public hearing

The committee will hold hearings as part of this inquiry so that it can hear from people who have relevant experience or expertise.

The dates and locations for the committee's hearings will be published on the inquiry website.

DATE REFERRED

13 May 2021

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE

25 June 2021

NEXT HEARINGS

To be advised

REPORTING DATE

30 November 2021

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Senator Rachel Siewert (Chair)
Senator Wendy Askew (Deputy Chair)
Senator Catryna Bilyk
Senator Nita Green
Senator Hollie Hughes
Senator Anne Urquhart

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Most committee hearings are held in public and anyone is welcome to come and listen. The audio and video of each hearing will also be broadcast live on the internet:

www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament

Further information about what to expect when attending a Senate committee hearings is available on the Senate website: [Attending a public hearing](#)

Inquiry Terms of Reference

The purpose, intent and adequacy of the Disability Support Pension (DSP), with specific reference to:

- a. the purpose of the DSP;
- b. the DSP eligibility criteria, assessment and determination, including the need for health assessments and medical evidence and the right to review and appeal;
- c. the impact of geography, age and other characteristics on the number of people receiving the DSP;
- d. the impact of the DSP on a disabled person's ability to find long term, sustainable and appropriate, employment within the open labour market;
- e. the capacity of the DSP to support persons with disabilities, chronic conditions and ill health, including its capacity to facilitate and support labour market participation where appropriate;
- f. discrimination within the labour market and its impact on employment, unemployment and underemployment of persons with disabilities and their support networks;
- g. the adequacy of the DSP and whether it allows people to maintain an acceptable standard of living in line with community expectations;
- h. the appropriateness of current arrangements for supporting disabled people experiencing insecure employment, inconsistent employment, precarious hours in the workforce; and inequitable workplace practices;
- i. the economic benefits of improved income support payments and supports for persons with disabilities, their immediate households and broader support services and networks;
- j. the relative merits of alternative investments in other programs to improve the standard of living of persons with disabilities; and
- k. any related matters.